

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-16: (Cancelled).

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): A cosmetic method of treating human skin by delivering an estrogenic component to said skin, the method comprising applying to the skin a composition according to claim 31.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 28, wherein R₃ represents a hydroxyl group or an alkoxy group.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 28, wherein at least 3 of the groups R₁, R₂, R₃, and R₄ represent hydrogen atoms.

Claim 20 (Cancelled).

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): The cosmetic method according to claim 17, wherein the composition is applied in an effective amount to enhance proliferation of fibroblasts and/or epidermal skin cells.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): The cosmetic method according to claim 17, wherein the composition is applied in an effective amount to improve skin thickness and/or skin elasticity.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): The cosmetic method according to claim 17, wherein the composition is applied in an effective amount to improve or prevent the condition of wrinkled, lined, dry, flaky, aged or photodamaged skin.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 28, wherein the composition contains at least 10 µg/g of the estrogenic component.

Claim 25 (Withdrawn): The cosmetic method according to claim 17, wherein the composition is applied to facial skin or skin of the neck.

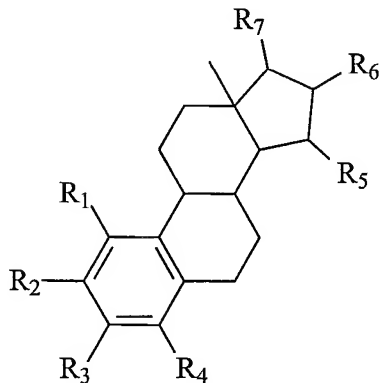
Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 28, wherein the composition is applied at least once a day during a period of at least 3 days.

Claim 27 (Withdrawn): The cosmetic method according to claim 17, wherein virtually all of the composition that has been applied to the skin, is allowed to penetrate said skin.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): A method of treating or reducing a risk of developing vaginal dryness, wherein the method comprises applying to the vaginal epithelium a composition containing:

- (i) at least 5 $\mu\text{g/g}$ of an estrogenic component selected from the group consisting of:

substances represented by the following formula:



in which formula R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, independently are a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group or an alkoxy group with 1-5 carbon atoms; each of R₅, R₆, R₇ is a hydroxyl group; no more than 3 of R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄ are hydrogen atoms;

precursors capable of liberating a substance according to the aforementioned formula when used in the present method, wherein the precursors are derivatives of the estrogenic substances wherein the hydrogen atom of at least one of the hydroxyl groups has been substituted by an acyl radical of a hydrocarbon carboxylic, sulfonic acid or sulfamic acid of

1-25 carbon atoms; tetrahydrofuranyl; tetrahydropyranal; or a straight or branched chain glycosydic residue containing 1-20 glycosidic units per residue; and

mixtures of one or more of the aforementioned substances and/or precursors; and

(ii) a cosmetically acceptable vehicle.

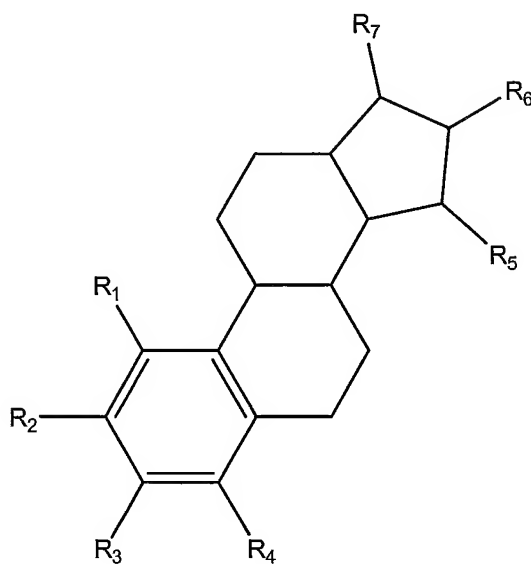
Claim 29 (Withdrawn): A method of promoting wound healing, wherein the method comprises applying to the wounded tissue or to tissue in the vicinity of the wound a composition according to claim 31.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn): A method of treating or preventing acne, wherein the method comprises applying to the skin that is affected by acne or that is at risk of being affected by acne a composition according to claim 31.

Claim 31 (Withdrawn): A skin care composition for topical administration containing:

(i) at least 5 $\mu\text{g/g}$ of an estrogenic component selected from the group consisting of:

substances represented by the following formula:



in which formula R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, independently are a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group or an alkoxy group with 1-5 carbon atoms; each of R₅, R₆, R₇ is a hydroxyl group; no more than 3 of R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄ are hydrogen atoms;

precursors capable of liberating a substance according to the aforementioned formula when used in the present method; and

mixtures of one or more of the aforementioned substances and/or precursors; and

(ii) a cosmetically acceptable vehicle.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 28, which composition is a lotion, salve or a cream.

Claim 33 (New): The method according to claim 28, wherein the method is for treating vaginal dryness.

Claim 34 (New): The method according to claim 33, wherein the estrogenic component is estetrol.